

REMARKS

This Amendment is intended to respond fully to the Examiner's First Office Action dated December 27, 2005 in which claims 16-20, 25-27, 32-43, 45-46 and 51-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Buckroyd et al. (U.S. PGPUB 2004/0134238) or obvious in view of Buckroyd et al. in combination with one or other references, and claims 21-24, 28-31, 44, 46-50 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner kindly indicated that claims 21-24, 28-31, 44, 46-50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this Amendment, claims 21, 28, 44, 46 and 48 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the originally filed base and intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 21, 28, 44, 46 and 48 are believed to be in condition for allowance, as are claims 22-27, 29-33, 45, 47 and 49-52, each of which depends directly or indirectly from claims 21, 28, 44, 46 and 48, respectively. Specifically, regarding dependent claims 25-27, 32-33, 45 and 51, these claims previously depended from a non-allowable claim, but are hereby amended to depend from one of claims 21, 28, 44, 46 and 48. Claims 16-20, 34-43, 53-58 have been cancelled as well as claims 1-15 and 59-67, which were previously withdrawn. Therefore, claims 21-33 and 44-52 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully notes that the above amendments and cancellations are hereby made without prejudice. Accordingly, submission of this Amendment is not an admission that the Examiner's aforementioned rejections to claims 16-20, 25-27, 32-43, 45, 46 and 51-58 are proper. Applicant reserves the right to file these claims and traverse the Examiner's rejections of these claims in a properly filed continuing application.

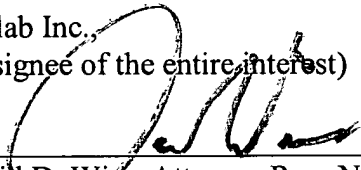
CONCLUSION

This Amendment, inclusive of the accompanying remarks, is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action dated December 27, 2005. Claims 21-33 and 44-52 are now pending in the application and are believed to be allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, prompt allowance and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns. As the total number of independent claims remains less than the total number independent claims previously paid for, no fees are believed due to coincident with this Amendment. However, if this is not the case, please charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully Submitted,

Ecolab Inc.,
(Assignee of the entire interest)



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